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Please tell us (in a few sentences) about your path to EC leadership. For example – Where did you go to undergrad- what was your major? Other: What EC jobs have you had; when did you first think about being a PST/leader in EC?

I did both my undergraduate and my graduate work at UW-Oshkosh, majoring in Human Services and Education, with a Special Education emphasis. Prior to and during college, most of my employment involved working with adults with disabilities. During student teaching, I was placed with a Birth to Three Program, but as a part of a special arrangement with that program actually was placed in a 3-5 special needs classroom for part of my experience. I was hired by that program as an ECSE before finishing student teaching . To be able to see both parts of B-6 at work was an invaluable experience. Although I began work in the EC field as an ECSE, I eventually became the director of the Outagamie County Birth to Three Program and worked there for a total of seventeen years prior to becoming a PST for CESA 7.

Please tell us about your special interests/knowledge in our field which others might contact you about.

Obviously, I have a strong background in Birth to Three and have found that to be very helpful in promoting positive relations between the schools and the counties. I am known for my creativity in finding money for resources, so hopefully that will help someone out! I also am very connected with those in the child abuse prevention field, and have done hundreds of trainings for mandated reporters, parents and medical professionals. Finally, my passion for young children has even taken me thousands of miles outside of the country to a small, former Soviet Republic where I was able to help train leaders there on the United State's Early Childhood Special Education System. This really helped to raise my own cultural awareness, so perhaps I can be of some assistance to someone in that area.

Is there anything else you'd like other, newer EC leaders to know?

I have found most everyone in this field to be helpful, insightful and willing to share. Don't be afraid to ask questions!